



WISCONSIN ACADEMY
of Sciences, Arts and Letters



Waters of Wisconsin: the future of our aquatic ecosystems and resources

Wisconsin Legislative Hearing
Madison, Wisconsin
July 29, 2009



“The resource establishment, especially in the field of water, is stuck on the shoals of special interests, a lack of long-term perspective, and a shortage of public-spirited leadership.... A new direction should be guided by an expressed ethos involving the long-term health of the ecosystem and a new pledge for equity.”

Luna B. Leopold, “Ethos, Equity, and the Water Resource”
Abel Woolman Lecture, National Academy of Sciences, 1990



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**PCB cleanup
found lacking**
Sediment in bay ignored

EPA set to act on dumping

Fines possible against MMSD, communities

By JEFFREY HARRIS
Staff Writer

Environmental Protection Agency officials are set to announce whether the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the city of Milwaukee are in compliance with federal laws governing the dumping of sewage sludge into Lake Michigan.

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Troubled waters

Great Lakes area
resists Bush over
water diversion

By GAIL SHINE
Staff Writer

DETROIT — The Great Lakes weren't mentioned by name, but President Bush's recent comments that he wants to talk to Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien about piping water to Southwestern and Western states has

Using up our water

You remember the
"You never miss the water."

Green Bay aquifer sent crisis signal

GREEN BAY — The pumps that used
to pull water
from the aquifer be-

water laws

Bottled water, at what price?

Perrier's Wisconsin plans highlight groundwater concerns.

By WILL KATZ

Perrier's plans to build a new bottling plant in Wisconsin have sparked a debate over groundwater rights and the potential for water scarcity in the state.



Protesters in Wisconsin oppose Perrier's plans to build a new bottling plant.

Perrier's plans to build a new bottling plant in Wisconsin have sparked a debate over groundwater rights and the potential for water scarcity in the state.

Environmental groups are concerned that Perrier's plans could lead to the depletion of groundwater resources in the region.



Waters of Wisconsin Process, 2000-2003

- ◆ Consultation
- ◆ WOW co-chairs and WOW committee
- ◆ Building the WOW advisory network
- ◆ Partner agencies and organizations
- ◆ WOW meetings and public forums
- ◆ WOW forum, October 2002
- ◆ FINAL REPORT, April 2003
- ◆ Follow-up actions



WOW final report

- 1 The Waters of Wisconsin: An Overview
- 2 Wisconsin's Waters: Status and Trends
- 3 Looking Forward: Envisioning Wisconsin's Water Future
- 4 Sustaining Wisconsin's Waters
- 5 Water Policies for Wisconsin's Future
- 6 Findings and Recommendations

**Released during Earth Week:
www.wisconsinacademy.org**



WOW Working Group 4: **Water Policy**

- ♦ What are the current policies governing use and protection of Wisconsin's waters?
- ♦ What are the key gaps, conflicts, and duplications in our current policies?
- ♦ What can be done to guide the state toward a sustainable water future?



Toward a Comprehensive State Water Policy

- Establish in 2003 a Wisconsin Water Policy Task Force to outline steps toward a more comprehensive state water policy.
- Task Force should examine all major topic areas related to water use, management, and protection, and address the long-term and cumulative impacts of current policy on Wisconsin's waters.
- Task Force should undertake several specific activities:
 - inventory and assess current policy
 - identify policy gaps, conflicts, duplications, contradictions
 - identify scientific data, sources, and additional needs
 - develop statement of future directions and policy framework
 - make specific recommendations for legislative action
 - assess water education, monitoring, and research needs

Next Steps

- ◆ Wisconsin Water Policy Task Force (to be formed by WDNR, at Governor's direction)
- ◆ Broad representation, open process – building on WOW experience
- ◆ Draw on agencies; university; citizens

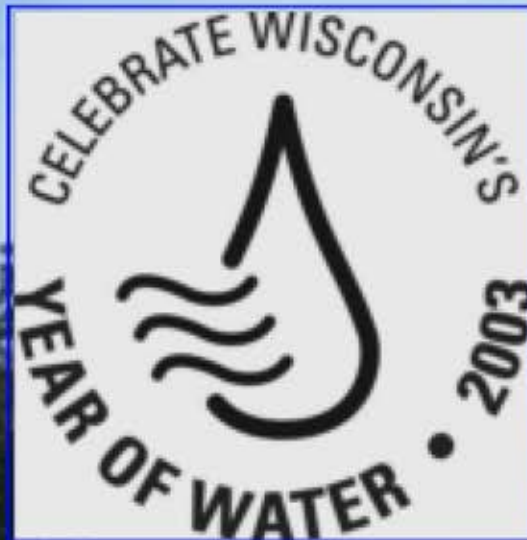
YOW Goals



- ◆ Celebrate progress
- ◆ Promote local projects that conserve, restore, and sustain water resources
- ◆ Increase public understanding of aquatic ecosystems and awareness of important issues
- ◆ Highlight stewardship efforts of organizations, agencies, communities, businesses, and schools



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Happy Wisconsin Year of Water !

